

BOROUGH OF BECCLES

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1926

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Charles Rees Smith, M.D., D.P.H.)

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The Mayor Aldermen and Councillors of
the Borough of Beccles.

Sir and Gentlemen, I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year
1926.


General Statistics

Acreage	...	...	...	...	2037
Population (1921)	...	...	...	...	7077
Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	6960
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	...	...	...	...	1771
Number of Families or separate occupiers	...	...	...	...	1773
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£32970
Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	...	£117 net.

Vital Statistics

Vital Statistics

Births	...	...	93	{	Legitimate	$\frac{M}{51}$	$\frac{F}{38}$
				{	Illegitimate	2	2
Birth Rate per 1000	...	...	...			13.36	
Deaths	...	...	...			$\frac{M}{33}$	$\frac{F}{44}$
Death Rate per 1000	...	...	...			11.06	
Number of Women dying in or				)	from sepsis	...	0
in consequence of childbirth				)	from other causes	...	0
Deaths of Infants under one year. .. 75.3 per 1000 Births.							
Total Deaths	Legitimate	7	Illegitimate	0			
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	1				
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	2					
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1						
Rate for England and Wales (Birth				17.8	per/1000
				(Death	...	11.6	
				(Infantile Mortality	70		



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Notifiable Diseases

						<u>Cases Notified</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Diphtheria	1	0
Scarlet Fever	5	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	...	...	4	0
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	4	0
Tuberculosis	{	Pulmonary	{	M	4	4	
				F	6	6	
				M	0	1	
				F	2	1	
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	3	0
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	0	1

HOSPITAL AND NURSING FACILITIES

Beccles and District War Memorial Hospital provides accomodation for 22 Patients, and provides an up-to-date X Ray Apparatus for diagnosis and treatment and an Arc Lamp for artificial Sunlight treatment.

Nursing is provided by the Beccles Nursing Association which is under the control of a Voluntary Committee. The Staff consists of a Sister and two Nurses all of whom hold the C.M.B. Certificate. The Nurses work under the direction of the Medical Practitioners in the Town.

The Town Council undertake to pay the maintenance charges in the Beccles Hospital of cases of enteric fever sent there on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

SCARLET FEVER

5 cases notified during the year - all mild in type.

ENTERIC FEVER

2 cases occurred in January and two in September - all the cases recovered.

DYSENTERY

3 cases of Amoric dysentery - two in the same household.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

The Medical Officer of Health (Dr. C. R. Smith M.D., D.P.H.,) and the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Charles L. Hamby M.I.M. & C.E.) are both part time Officers of the Council in their capacity of Public Health Officers. The County Council contribute one moiety of these Officers salaries from the Exchequer Contribution Account.

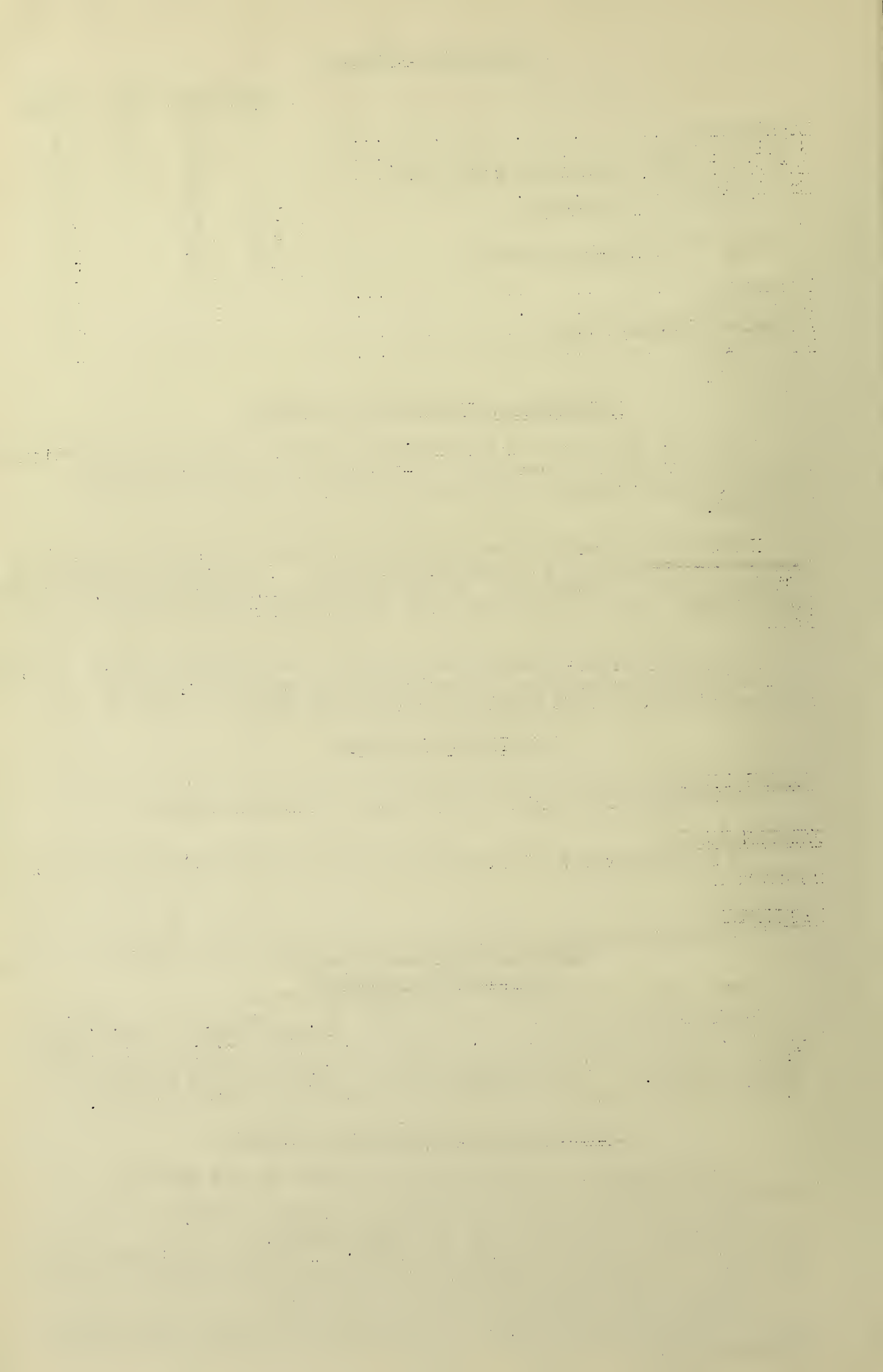
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

A large number of inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector and myself during the year.

These investigations resulted in 25 formal notices. The works required by the notices were duly executed.

The Water supply is from the Company's Works in Puddingmoor, the Water is analysed annually and has always been found to be pure and contains a considerable degree of hardness.

No important extension of the public water supply has been carried out during the year. A few isolated houses have however been connected.



DISINFECTIONS

There were 28 rooms disinfected after infectious diseases.

FOOD

The County Council is responsible for the administration of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

The Chief Constable arranges for samples to be taken periodically and also by arrangement in special cases.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

No pollution of the River Waveney has been noted during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Town is drained on the separate system i.e. Storm Water draining to the River and Sewerage to the Sewerage Pumping Station. The system still proves efficient and no complaints have been received. The extension of the sewer in St. Annes Road and St. Georges Road mentioned in my 1925 report was commenced during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMODATION

There are an exceptionally small number of privys and earth closets in the Town. The completion of the sewer extension in St. Annes Road and St. Georges Road will cause a further reduction in the number.

SCAVENGING

Galvanised iron Dust Bins with close fitting lids are in general use throughout the Town, and the collection of refuse is regularly and satisfactorily carried out.

The method of cleansing earth closets, privies, ashpits and cesspools in the Town is all that can be desired.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action has been taken with a view to smoke abatement, there being no great cause for complaint.

SCHOOLS

The sanitary condition and water supply of the Schools is satisfactory.

It has not been necessary to take any action to prevent the spread of Infectious Disease.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

This work continues to make steady progress:-

	1923	1924	1925	1926
Average weekly attendance	42	44	45	48
New cases during the year	51	80	87	68

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Cases			Vision un-impaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
1		1				1

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS 1925

It has not been necessary to take any action under these Regulations as no Tuberculosis person is employed in the Milk Trade.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1925 (sec. 62)

It has not been found necessary to take any action under this section.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1925

Number of New Houses erected during the year:-

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	42
(b) With State assistance under Housing Acts	Nil
(1) By the Local Authority	
(11) By other bodies or persons	20

1. UNFIT DWELLINGHOUSES

Inspection:-

(1) Total number of Dwellinghouses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Housing Acts)	52
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910, or the Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925.	12
(3) Number of Dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of Dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	25

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	25
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act 1925

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	Nil
(2) Number of Dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(3) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close.	Nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. Nil.
- (2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
- (a) By Owners Nil.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners. Nil

C. Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act 1925.
Nil

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0							1	
1								
5				1				1
10				1				
15	1					1		
20	1	2				1		
25						1		
35		2			1	2		
45	1	1			1	1		
55		1			1			
65 & upwards	1				1			
Totals	4	6		2	4	6	1	1

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

<u>Premises</u>					<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers prosecuted</u>
Factories	...	...	...	...	4		
Workshops	...	...	...	...	43	2	Nil
Total					47	2	Nil

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:-

<u>Par-ticulars</u>	<u>Number of Defects</u>	
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Want of cleanliness 	2	2

I am, Sir and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) C. R. SMITH

Medical Officer of Health.

